

DOCKET NO: 250681US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF	: DATE ALLOWED: OCTOBER 5, 2007
TOMOAKI ENOKIDA	: EXAMINER: FIELDS, COURTNEY D.
SERIAL NO: 10/804,097	:
FILED: MARCH 19, 2004	: GROUP ART UNIT: 2137
FOR: DIGITAL CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, DIGITAL CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS, DIGITAL CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT METHOD, PROGRAM AND COMPUTER READABLE INFORMATION RECORDING MEDIUM	:

**COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, appearing on pages 2-4 of the Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37) mailed on October 5, 2007, fails to distinguish between the recitations set forth in independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 19, 22 and 23 and the claims that depend thereon; the recitations set forth in independent Claims 16-18 and 33-35; the recitations set forth in independent Claims 36, 39, 41, 51, 54 and 55 and the claims that depend thereon; the recitations set forth in independent Claim 65; and the recitations set forth in Claims 72-77. More specifically, the examiner's reasons for allowance appearing on line 8 of page 2 through line 18 of page 4 of the Notice of Allowability implies that all of the claims recite the uniquely distinct features "updating the proof key, proving validity of the digital certificate for mutual authentication, creating a new digital certificate, creating a new proof key, and

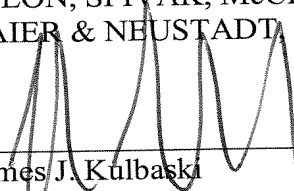
transmitting the proof key and certificate through a special communication path” (page 2, lines 12-15 of Comments).

In this regard, independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 19, 22 and 23 and the claims dependent thereon recite a digital certificate management system while independent Claims 16-18 and 33-35 recite a digital certificate management apparatus. Moreover, independent Claims 36, 39, 41, 51, 54, and 55 and the claims that depend thereon recite a digital certificate management method while independent Claim 65 recites an updating procedure method. Also, independent claims 72-77 recite a computer readable information recording medium storing a program therein.

Accordingly, the examiner's reasons for allowance only apply to independent Claims 1, 4, 6, 16-19, 22, 23 and 33-35 and the claims that depend thereon and do not apply to independent Claims 36, 39, 41, 51, 54, 55, 65 and 72-77 and the claims that depend thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

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